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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 20103, 20107 and 49 CFR 1.49.

SOURCE: 44 FR 2175, Jan. 10, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes to part 218 appear at 58 FR 43292, Aug. 16, 1993.

**Subpart A—General****§ 218.1 Purpose.**

This part prescribes minimum requirements for railroad operating rules and practices. Each railroad may prescribe additional or more stringent requirements in its operating rules, timetables, timetable special instructions, and other special instructions.

**§ 218.3 Application.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, this part applies to railroads that operate rolling equipment on standard gage track which is part of the general railroad system of transportation.

(b) This part does not apply to—

(1) A railroad that operates only on track inside an installation which is not part of the general railroad system of transportation, or

(2) Rapid transit operations in an urban area that are not connected with the general railroad system of transportation.

[44 FR 2175, Jan. 10, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 28599, July 28, 1988]

**§ 218.5 Definitions.**

*Absolute block* means a block in which no train is permitted to enter while it is occupied by another train.

*Blue signal* means a clearly distinguishable blue flag or blue light by day and a blue light at night. When attached to the operating controls of a locomotive, it need not be lighted if the inside of the cab area of the locomotive is sufficiently lighted so as to make the blue signal clearly distinguishable.

*Camp car* means any on-track vehicle, including outfit, camp, or bunk cars or modular homes mounted on flat cars used to house rail employees. It does not include wreck trains.

*Car shop repair track area* means one or more tracks within an area in which the testing, servicing, repair, inspection, or rebuilding of railroad rolling equipment is under the exclusive control of mechanical department personnel.

*Controlling Locomotive* means a locomotive arranged as having the only controls over all electrical, mechanical and pneumatic functions for one or more locomotives, including controls transmitted by radio signals if so equipped. It does not include two or more locomotives coupled in multiple which can be moved from more than one set of locomotive controls.

*Designated crew member* means an individual designated under the railroad's operating rules as the point of contact between a train or yard crew and a utility employee working with that crew.

*Effective locking device* when used in relation to a manually operated switch or a derail means one which is:

- (1) Vandal resistant;
- (2) Tamper resistant; and
- (3) Capable of being locked and unlocked only by the class, craft or group of employees for whom the protection is being provided.

*Flagman's signals* means a red flag by day and a white light at night, and a specified number of torpedoes and fuses as prescribed in the railroad's operating rules.

*Group of workers* means two or more workers of the same or different crafts assigned to work together as a unit under a common authority and who are